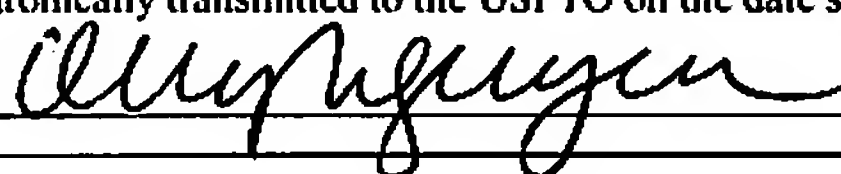


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: April 15, 2009

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 (Quyen Nguyen)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/824,936  
Confirmation No.: 7289  
Filing Date: April 14, 2004  
Inventor(s): Vahid SAADAT et al.  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBTAINING ENDOLUMINAL ACCESS  
Examiner: Matthew J. Kasztejna  
Group Art Unit: 3739

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 15, 2008 in the above-identified United States Patent Application. Filed herewith is a petition and fee requesting a three-month extension of time to file this response. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Also filed herewith is a Request for Continued Examination.

Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.